

longer sting with any finality, that there is an eternal life waiting for us. From Psalm 121 we are assured that God alone is the source of strength that counts in our hard and difficult times: "Our help cometh from the Lord which made Heaven and earth." In Romans 8 we are promised that the love of God will never be separated from God's people in Jesus Christ. Not even death can remove us from the presence and love of God. Psalm 23 reassures us that God is like a compassionate shepherd who is constantly looking out for his sheep, and always sees to the best care of his flock. "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. . . . And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." In John 14 Jesus promises that there will be a place for us in His eternal home. And that He will come again to escort us to our new "mansion." George has found his place there in Heaven already. Maybe it will help us to know in our moments of sadness, that someday we too will find our way there to our special eternal room, and rejoin George for a glorious and happy reunion in the presence of God.

CRISIS ON THE BORDER

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis on our border. As the representative for over 800 miles of the Mexican border I know all too well the extent of the threat to America's law abiding border communities.

This Congress has dramatically increased funding for the Border Patrol. I am proud to have led the effort for this increased funding. However, far more needs to be done. Agents have been transferred to other regions. Courts and prisons are underfunded; and drug runners and alien smugglers are making this part of America a base for their operations.

Our pleas for help along the border have not fallen on deaf ears. The Appropriations bill before us today offers hope in fighting this criminal plague. This Treasury, Postal Appropriation increases funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy by about 25%. This money can be used to combat the drug runners threatening Americans in Texas border communities, farms and ranchers.

It is now up the Administration to spend this money on the border, the front line of the drug war, not on more Washington bureaucrats. The drug czar himself was recently in Eagle Pass, Texas. He saw with his own eyes and he heard with his own ears of the dangers our poor border communities confront. He now should know first-hand the problems border residents face.

Today we are voting to give him the resources to conduct this fight. We are restoring cuts made in previous White House budgets. I hope we have gotten the White House's attention now that this is an election year. The evidence has been seen and resources provided. Americans along the border have the same right to safety and security as other Americans.

My colleagues, this legislation provides the resources to stop the drug runners and end the crisis on the border. If you care about the safety and security of your fellow Americans along the border vote for this Treasury, Postal Appropriations bill.

IMPROVEMENTS TO H.R. 2634

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on November 14, 1995, I introduced H.R. 2634, a bill to allow persons to carry concealed firearms in every State if they have been issued a license to do so by any State. It was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and subsequently referred to Subcommittee on Crime.

H.R. 2634 provided that a person with a permit to carry a concealed firearm in one State may carry a concealed firearm in any State "in accordance with the terms of the license." This meant that a person with a license from State A could carry in State B according to the rules of State A. Therefore, individuals' rights and privileges would differ in the same State depending on their State of origin. For example, a person licensed in State A traveling to State B would be able to exercise different privileges in State B than an individual licensed in State C who was traveling to State B, as well. This language would require law enforcement officers to know the right-to-carry laws of all 50 States because individuals licensed in different States would be allowed to carry in their State under varying laws.

To address the above mentioned problems, I have introduced the new Stearns right-to-carry bill, which is designed to facilitate its implementation by allowing (a) that the law of each State governs conduct within the State where the State has a right-to-carry statute; and (b) that Federal law provide a bright-line standard of conduct applicable to States that do not have a right-to-carry statute.

Under the new Stearns bill, if State A has a right-to-carry statute, an individual's conduct who was licensed in State B would be governed by the right-to-carry laws of State A while he was traveling with State A. Therefore, if State A imparts more privileges upon individual licensed to carry than State B, then the individual licensed in State B would be governed by the right to carry laws of State A while he was in State A.

The individual licensed in State B would also be in compliance with the law if he carried in State C with no right-to-carry statute pursuant to the Federal bright-line standard. The Federal bright-line standard governing those States with no right-to-carry statute would solve the problem of States with no carry licenses and thus no standards. This Federal bright-line standard governs conduct only, meaning it governs where one may not carry a concealed firearm notwithstanding the fact that they have a license to carry. It is intended to make clear that an individual may not carry a concealed firearm in certain highly sensitive locations such as court rooms, police stations, schools, and other locations.

The Federal bright-line standard is not a licensing mechanism. Licenses to carry would still need to be lawfully obtained from a State which has a licensing mechanism.

Precedent already exists for Federal standards which preempt State law in this area. Title 15 United States Code, section 902 provides that members of armored car crews with licenses to carry issued by a State "shall be entitled to lawfully carry any weapons to which such license relates in any State while such

crew member is acting in the service of such company."

A Federal standard governs the conduct of nonresidents in those States that do not have a right-to-carry statute. However, States that do have their own right-to-carry statutes can be assured that their State laws will be respected by nonresidents who are within their borders. This legislation greatly benefits and protects this Nation's every increasingly mobile society. I believe citizens have the right to protect themselves and their families anywhere in America. It does not make sense for Americans to forfeit their safety because they happen to be on vacation or on a business trip.

However, if the law of a given State explicitly allows licensee's to carry in some places not authorized in the Federal standard, it certainly makes no sense for the nonresident to be in violation while the resident would not be held in violation. The new Stearns bill would authorize the carrying of a concealed firearm by a licensee if the licensee's conduct meets the conditions of the State law through which the nonresident is traveling or if their conduct meets the Federal bright-line rule.

I also added language to address the concerns of the law enforcement community. The new bill exempts qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

I urge all of the cosponsors of my first bill, H.R. 2634 to cosponsor this newly drafted and much improved concealed weapons reciprocity bill.

RECOGNIZING MARION MCCONNELL

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California, Mr. Speaker, recently a remarkable woman in my district in California was named the 1996 Red Cross Volunteer of the Year. Marion McConnell of Moraga was recognized for her 46 years of outstanding service at a National Red Cross ceremony in Cleveland, OH earlier this year.

For almost five decades, Marion has served by registering donors with the Red Cross Bloodmobile, chairing the Berkeley chapter of the Red Cross, writing the manual for coordinating the volunteer program, traveling the 11 Western States teaching from the manual to other Red Cross personnel, and coordinating volunteer activities at emergencies and disasters around the United States.

Marion helped consolidate numerous local chapters into a single chapter which encompasses the 5 Bay Area counties, a chapter now having roughly 3,400 volunteers.

Marion McConnell has given aid to countless hurting people in crisis after crisis. Her devotion to the work of the Red Cross has brought about transfusions for accident victims, food and shelter for victims of earthquakes and floods, and education for new volunteers who want to learn how to serve efficiently. Yet Marion's superb leadership has also meant a warm smile, a comforting word, and a caring spirit to frightened and distraught people who have seen their homes and even livelihoods vanish in an instant. This is a gift that cannot be measured but whose value is inestimable.

I am extremely pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marion McConnell. Her wonderful work is the embodiment of what it means to be a good neighbor, and she is more than deserving of recognition in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REX F. GIBSON HONORED

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in the chaos of battle, victory is determined, not by the planning of Generals and staff officers, but by the leadership of the junior officers and non-commissioned officers [NCOs]. The Battle of Normandy was no different. In fact, the historian Stephen E. Ambrose, in his book "D-Day: The Climatic Battle of World War II," wrote:

... for all the inspired leadership, in the end success or failure in Operation Overload came down to a relatively small number of junior officers, noncoms, and privates ... if the noncoms and junior officers failed to lead their men up and over the seawall to move inland in the face of enemy fire—why, then the most thoroughly planned offensive in military history, an offensive supported by incredible amounts of naval firepower, bombs, and rockets, would fail ... It came down to a bunch of 18 to 28 year olds ... They were citizen soldiers, not professionals.

This weekend, I will have the opportunity to participate in a ceremony where one of my constituents, Rex F. Gibson, a citizen-soldier, will finally receive his Bronze Star with Valor for his actions in Normandy in 1944.

Rex Gibson personified the concept of the citizen-soldier. In 1939, he joined the Arizona National Guard while he was in college in Safford, AZ. He was selected for Officer Candidate School to be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

Rex was assigned as platoon leader of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Section in the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, a National Guard Division, Rex's regiment was nicknamed the "Stonewallers" after their legendary Southern commander, Gen. Stonewall Jackson. Rex and the stonewallers were about to become famous as well. They would be the first regiment of the 29th division to land on Omaha Beach during the invasion of Normandy. To the horror of the soldiers, the Army-Air Force and the Navy did not silence the German machine guns or destroy the barbed wire and other obstacles on the beach. Their landing craft ramps opened to a wall of machine gun and artillery fire. Chaos broke out as soldiers tried to find safety. Rex and his fellow stonewallers quickly took the initiative and braved the machine gun fire to get a foothold on the beach.

By nightfall, the beach was taken but, at a terrible price. Rex's regiment suffered heavily from the assault. Platoons and companies were decimated because they had lost so many of their soldiers on the beach. The 116th Regiment may have been battered, but they were not out of this battle yet. Rex and the Stonewallers moved forward from the beach into France, fighting the Germans for another month.

The famous war correspondent Ernie Pyle, who later landed on Omaha Beach, summed

up the experience with these words: "... it seems to me a pure miracle that we ever took the beach at all." The miracle was the junior officers like Rex and the regimental NCOs who ensured that the beach was taken, that the battle for Normandy was victorious, and that the war was won.

When the war ended, Rex came home like so many other citizen-soldiers to continue with his life. Until now, Rex thought he had only done his duty as a citizen and a patriot. He did not know that his Regiment, his Division, and his country thought he had done more. Back in June of 1944, his division commander, Maj. Gen. Charles Gerhardt recommended him for the Bronze Star with Valor for his outstanding service during the Battle of Normandy.

Mr. Speaker, 52 years is too long for anyone to wait to be properly recognized for their service to their country. I want to thank Rex for his dedication and patriotism.

RAILWAY LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SUSAN MOLINARI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, three labor disputes, affecting several major unions and most of the Nation's major railroads, are now in the final days of the process provided for in the Railway Labor Act. All three disputes have undergone extensive mediation. When the produced impasses, the President appointed a Presidential Emergency Board [PEB] for each of the disputes, as provided in the Railway Labor Act, to recommend proposed settlement terms. The three PEBs issued their reports on June 23, 1996. The issuance of the PEB reports began the final 30-day "cooling-off" period under the Railway Labor Act for the parties to attempt a negotiated solution to their disputes. In any dispute where an agreement is not reached within this final 30 days, both sides are free to employ "self-help" under the Railway Labor Act—a strike by labor, or a lockout or unilateral promulgation of new rules and working conditions by management. In the three pending cases, this earliest legal time for self-help will be 12:01 a.m., July 24.

The stakes in these negotiations go far beyond the railroad industry itself. Although there are alternative methods of transportation, a number of industries cannot readily eliminate their heavy reliance on rail service. These include automobile manufacturing, paper, chemicals, and coal. As more and more industries have adopted "just-in-time" delivery of supplies and parts to reduce inventory costs, the continuity of rail service has become even more important to the economy. As a result, an interruption of rail service for even a few days can require the complete shutdown of many of the plants in these industries. Overall, some \$2.7 billion of goods move by rail every day. At the time of the 1991 national rail strike, the Council of Economic Advisors estimated the non-recoverable damage to the economy of a rail shutdown as \$1 billion per day after the first few days. Current projec-

tions indicate that a rail shutdown would cause nearly 600,000 non-rail layoffs within 2 weeks, and over 1 million such layoffs after 4 weeks.

Besides the industries directly served by the freight railroads, Amtrak and most commuter and rail services must use tracks and equipment of the freight railroad network. For these rail passenger services, a freight rail shutdown could strand 294,000 commuters and 25,000 Amtrak riders per day.

In light of the vital economic role of continuous and reliable rail service, we urge both labor and rail management to negotiate in good faith, using the recommendations of the three Presidential Emergency Boards to inform their deliberations. Although Congress has intervened in a number of rail shutdowns in the past, this should be a last resort. Privately negotiated voluntary agreements are vastly preferable, for the employees, the rail carriers, and the nation.

Meanwhile, to aid the Members of Congress and the public in understanding the issues involved in these three labor disputes, we are making available in the Committee's offices summaries of the three Presidential Emergency Board reports. The PEB reports themselves totaled approximately 150 pages. We hope that this condensed summary will help all concerned understand the issues better, and to evaluate the accuracy of any claims about the content of the PEB recommendations they may hear in the coming weeks.

HONORING JAMES J. McFADDEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, there are many people in the Riverdale section of the Bronx who are worthy of praise for all of their civic activities. One of the most deserving is James J. McFadden, who for many years has given unselfishly of himself to make his neighborhood, his borough and his city a better place.

He is a founding member of the Frances Schervier Home and Hospital Area Board of Trustees. He has initiated programs, to help drop-outs take high school equivalency exams, served as city labor commissioner and has served on the boards of the New York City Department of the Aging and the Yonkers Waterfront Commission. It is a great honor for me to be able to note that he is being named as Riverdalian of the Year by the Riverdale Community Council, a richly deserved honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, this morning I was attending the funeral of a close friend. Regrettably, I missed the first rollcall vote of the day which was a procedural vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."